THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Expenditure on education

†2054. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decision to spend 6 per cent of GDP on education was taken as per the National Education Policy, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that till the year 2005-06, the said expenditure of 6 per cent of GDP has never been spent in any year ever since the announcement of the aforesaid education policy;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) Government's future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) The extant National Policy on Education envisaged that the outlay on education will be stepped up to ensure that during the Eighth Five Year Plan and onwards, it will uniformally exceed 6% of the national income. However, it has not so far been possible to achieve this level of expenditure due to constraint on resources and other competing priorities.

The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government also pledges to raise public spending on education to at least 6% of GDP with at least half this amount being spent on the primary and secondary education sectors, in a phased manner. For the year 2005-06, the total Plan allocation for the Department of the Secondary and Higher Education and the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

stepped up to Rs. 15243.76 crore as against Rs. 8225 crore in Budget Estimate 2004-05.

Primary schools

†2055. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of primary schools is decreasing continuously;

(b) if not, the number of such schools in 2001-02 and 2003-04; and

(c) the number of students registered in these schools during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The number of primary schools and enrolement of students at the primary stage during the last three years 2000-01 to 2002-03 is given below:

(Figures in lakhs)

Year	Number of primary schools	Enrolment of students at primary stage
2000-01	6.39	1138
2001-02	6.64	1139
2002-03	6.51	1224

Figures for the year 2003-04 are not available.

Shortage of secondary schools

†2056. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of secondary schools;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.